

and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 60 years, Freida Gutlow Maisel; his three children, Kathy M. Bronstein, Elliot B. Maisel, and Ivan B. Maisel; his ten grandchildren; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANGMEISTER

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, George Sangmeister, who passed away last weekend. George was a stalwart of Illinois politics for over 30 years and served in this body from 1988–1994. He embodied the hard-working decency of the Midwest and I extend my condolences to his family.

George committed a great deal of his life to public service, beginning with his service in the Army during the Korean War. He graduated from Elmhurst College and the John Marshall Law School, becoming a Will County Magistrate in 1961. He later served as the county's District Attorney and was elected to both the Illinois House and Senate. In 1986, he was tabbed by Adlai Stevenson III to run as his Lieutenant Governor. They lost that race, but George went on two years later to win election to Congress.

George had a warm personality and was a results-oriented politician, looking for consensus wherever he could. He was not concerned about grandstanding, but always seeking out a way to bring people together for the greater good. He led the efforts to create the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, both projects distinct to and emblematic of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, we can all learn from the example of George Sangmeister, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and accomplishments.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, October 4, 2007, I was absent from the House due to a family illness and therefore missed rollcall votes 939 through 948.

Had I been present for rollcall 939, H.R. 2740, on the motion to recommit the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 940, H.R. 2740, on passage of the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 941, H. Res. 704, on ordering the previous question providing for the consideration of H.R. 3246, the

Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 942, H. Res. 704, on agreeing to the resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 943, H. Res. 703, on ordering the previous question providing for the consideration of H.R. 3648, Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 944, H. Res. 703, on agreeing to the resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3648, the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 945, H.R. 3246, on the motion to recommit the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 946, H.R. 3246, on passage of the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 947, H.R. 3648, on the motion to recommit the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 948, H.R. 3648, on passage of the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

### EXPANDING STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL

SPEECH OF

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today strong support of my resolution—H. Res. 651—which recognizes the expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil. This resolution also commends Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs and recognizes the importance of the March 9, 2007 United States–Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation.

For years, Brazil has flown below the radar in the United States. We never paid much attention to what was happening in the largest country in South America. But I believe that we are reaching the end of this period of ignorance and neglect and that we, in America, are finally waking up not only to Brazil's importance, but also to how natural this relationship should be.

Brazil occupies almost half of the continent of South America and is the fifth most populous country in the world. Its economy is the eleventh largest in the world, the largest in Latin America, and one of the largest in the developing world. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called Brazil "the regional leader and our global partner." These are words we reserve for only a few countries—those where partnership is truly advantageous for both of us.

Brazil is also the right country with which to cooperate on alternative energy sources.

Brazil and the United States are by far the world's largest ethanol producers. In 2006, the two countries together produced 69 percent of ethanol in the world. And Brazil has become a global leader on alternative energy. By the end of 2006, 80 percent of new car sales in Brazil were flex-fuel, meaning they can run on a mixture of ethanol and gasoline.

On March 9th, the U.S. and Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels in the Western Hemisphere. Our bilateral partnership is establishing both countries as leaders in the energy field in the hemisphere. I am particularly pleased by joint U.S.–Brazilian efforts to provide technical assistance to build biofuels industries in third countries, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador and St. Kitts and Nevis. This resolution commends these efforts and also encourages U.S. and Brazilian officials to quickly move to a second wave of countries to receive similar technical assistance.

Many argue that for too long, the U.S. has focused its agenda in the hemisphere on "trade and drugs" at the exclusion of other elements. The deepening of our energy cooperation with our friends in the hemisphere—particularly Brazil—is helping us to develop a positive agenda that I hope will continue to grow in the coming years.

I am also pleased to announce today that I will be leading a bipartisan congressional delegation to Brazil on November 25th and I encourage my colleagues to join me on this trip.

I want to close by noting that there is a cynical, old adage about Brazil that says, "Brazil is the land of the future, and always will be." Brazil's leadership at home, in the Americas and throughout the world is proving this statement to be false. I truly believe that Brazil's time has come. As Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chairman, I look forward to continuing to focus intensively on Brazil—a vital partner and friend.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 651.

### CHARLES H. HENDRIX POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of renaming the Cantonment Post Office in Cantonment, FL, the Charles H. Hendrix Post Office. It is fitting that we rename this post office after Mr. Hendrix as he retired from the U.S. Postal Service as Postmaster of the Cantonment Post Office with 37 years of service.

Charles Harold Hendrix was a man of service. He dedicated his life to the Lord, his family, and his community. Born and reared in Molino, FL, where he met his wife of 55 years, Barbara; they had three children: Chuck, Rusty, and Cheryl.

He was a member of Highland Baptist Church, where he served as the church treasurer, chairman of the board of deacons, and as a Sunday school superintendent. Charles Barton, the current Sunday school superintendent, said that Mr. Hendrix "had moral